

# Homelessness Among Youth Exiting Systems of Care in Washington State

JUNE 2023

## About this Report

This report provides information on the housing status of a cohort of youth (ages 12 to 17) and young adults (ages 18 to 24) exiting Washington State inpatient behavioral health, foster care, and criminal legal systems from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2021. Youth and young adults aging out of foster care, discharged from publicly funded inpatient mental health or substance use disorder treatment, or released from Juvenile Rehabilitation institutions or Department of Corrections facilities are followed over a 12-month period post-release using state administrative data. Administrative information on housing status is used to estimate homelessness rates within 12 months of discharge/release. A profile of youth exiters—as well as county-level breakdowns—are also provided and disaggregated by homelessness status post-exit.

Note that the data and methods used to estimate homelessness are subject to change. The results presented here are based on the most up-to-date methods and data and should not be compared to previous editions of this report.

## Youth Populations

Three populations are examined: 1) youth and young adults exiting publicly funded inpatient treatment for mental health or substance use; 2) young adults (ages 18 to 21) who "age out" of foster care; and 3) youth and young adults released from state Juvenile Rehabilitation institutions and young adults released from state Department of Corrections facilities.

## Homelessness

Youth and young adults are determined to be homeless if they 1) are identified as homeless based on living arrangement or address information in the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES); 2) received a housing service targeting homeless individuals that was recorded in the Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS); or 3) were identified as homeless based on ProviderOne Medical claims data.

*These measures were produced by the DSHS Research and Data Analysis Division in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Commerce*

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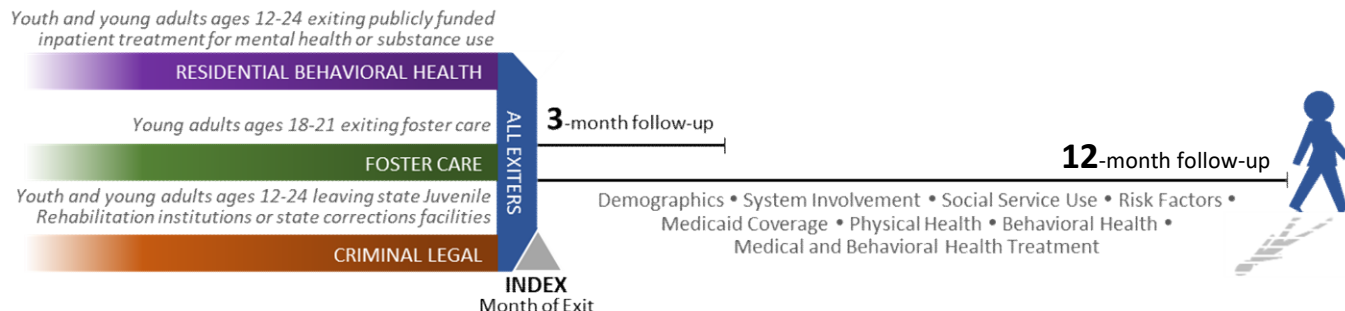
*NOTE: This report replaces the "Housing Status of Youth Exiting Foster Care, Behavioral Health and Criminal Legal Systems" (Report 11.240) previously produced by RDA.*

RDA Report Number 11.254

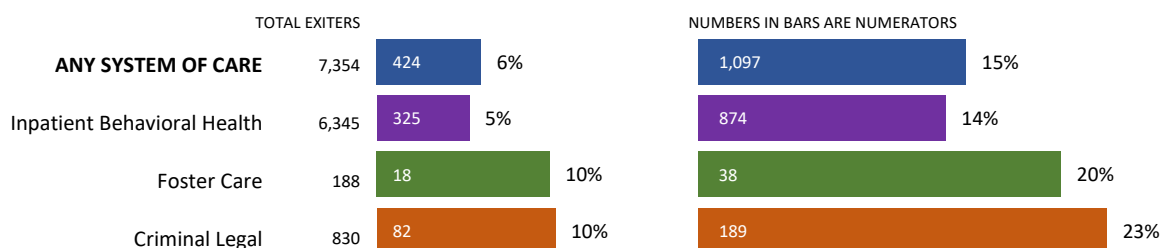
# Youth and Young Adult Homelessness At-a-Glance

Fiscal Year 2021

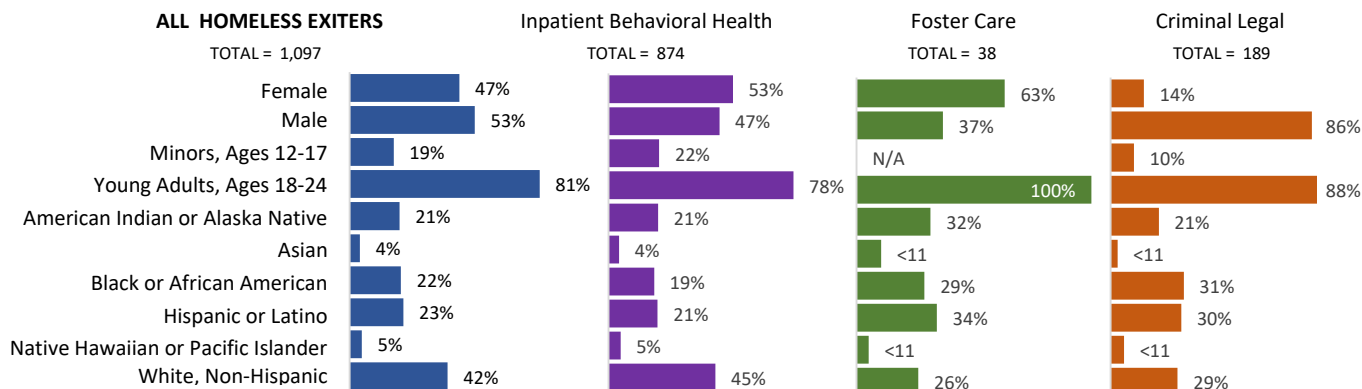
Three study populations are followed for 12 months after program exit . . .



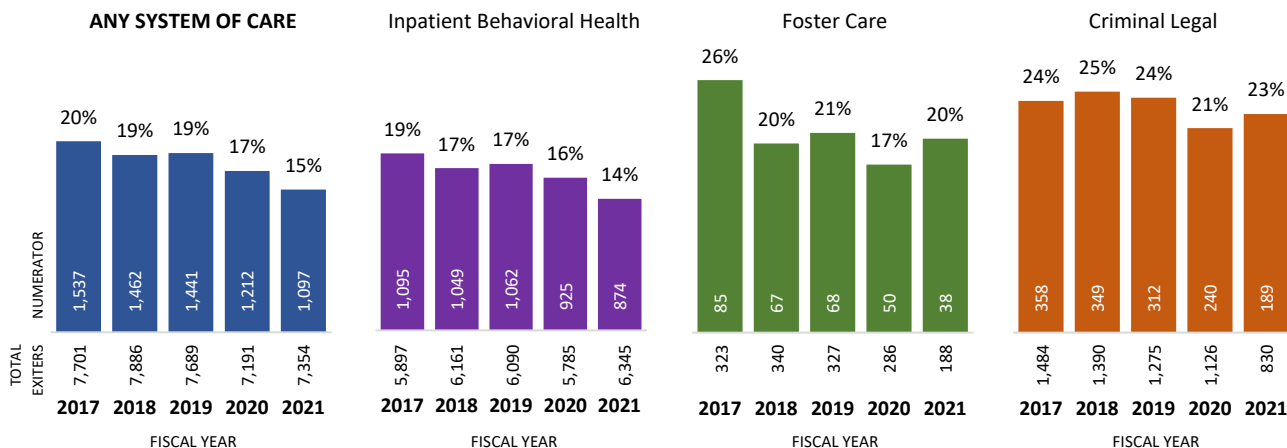
Percent who were homeless within 3 months after exit . . . within 12 months after exit . . .



Demographic characteristics of homeless exiters, within 12-months after exit, by system of care . . .



5-year trend in homelessness, within 12-months after exit, by system of care . . .



SOURCE: Integrated Client Databases

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# Youth and Young Adults Exiting State Systems of Care by Housing Status

Fiscal Year 2021

Exiters Who Were Not Homeless in 12-Month Follow-Up Period						
Exiters Who Were Homeless in 12-Month Follow-Up Period						
	All Exiters					
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Population Size	7,354		1,097		6,257	
<b>Demographics</b>						
Minors, Ages 12 - 17	2,563	35%	206	19%	2,357	38%
Young Adults, Ages 18 - 24	4,782	65%	887	81%	3,895	62%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,181	16%	234	21%	947	15%
Asian	415	6%	48	4%	367	6%
Black or African American	1,198	16%	240	22%	958	15%
Hispanic or Latino	1,853	25%	251	23%	1,602	26%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	329	4%	57	5%	272	4%
White, Non-Hispanic	3,316	45%	458	42%	2,858	46%
Missing Race/Ethnicity	51	1%	< 11	—	50	1%
Female	3,741	51%	512	47%	3,229	52%
Male	3,613	49%	585	53%	3,028	48%
<b>System Involvement, SFY 2021</b>						
Child Welfare (DCYF)	2,520	34%	440	40%	2,080	33%
Foster Care (DCYF)	532	7%	99	9%	433	7%
Received Behavioral Rehabilitation Services	146	2%	27	2%	119	2%
Detained in a Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility	498	7%	88	8%	410	7%
Detained in an Adult Correctional Facility or Jail	587	8%	159	14%	428	7%
Any Psychiatric Inpatient Services (HCA, DSHS)	2,134	29%	359	33%	1,775	28%
Any Substance Use Disorder Inpatient Services (HCA)	1,330	18%	324	30%	1,006	16%
Engaged with 2+ Systems of Care	658	9%	185	17%	473	8%
Readmitted to Any State System of Care	1,893	26%	395	36%	1,498	24%
<b>Social Services, 24 Months Prior to Exit</b>						
Any State or Federal Cash/Food Assistance (DSHS)	5,166	70%	909	83%	4,257	68%
Basic Food	4,286	58%	795	72%	3,491	56%
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	790	11%	163	15%	627	10%
Housing and Essential Needs (HEN)	92	1%	32	3%	60	1%
<b>Medicaid Coverage, 24 Months Prior to Exit</b>						
Any Medical Assistance	6,883	94%	1,029	94%	5,854	94%
<b>Medical History - Physical Health, 24 Months Prior to Exit of Those with Medical Assistance</b>						
Emergency Department Outpatient Visits (1 or more)	4,880	71%	800	78%	4,080	70%
Emergency Department Outpatient Visits (4 or more)	1,934	28%	409	40%	1,525	26%
Any Inpatient Hospitalization in a General Medical Setting	2,610	38%	476	46%	2,134	36%
Any Admission to a Medical Detoxification Facility	527	8%	145	14%	382	7%
<b>Medical History - Behavioral Health, 24 Months Prior to Exit of Those with Medical Assistance</b>						
Any Indication of a Mental Illness	5,780	84%	901	88%	4,879	83%
Any Indication of a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	3,532	51%	745	72%	2,787	48%
Any Indication of a Co-Occurring Mental Illness and SUD	3,193	46%	677	66%	2,516	43%
<b>Risk Factors</b>						
Any Indication of Neglect or Abuse Prior to Exit	4,169	57%	728	66%	3,441	55%
Any Indication of Homelessness Prior to Exit	3,259	44%	771	70%	2,488	40%
Ever Arrested or Charged for a Crime	3,699	50%	803	73%	2,896	46%
Never Employed in SFY 2021, <i>of those 18 and older</i>	1,787	37%	389	44%	1,398	36%

# Youth and Young Adults Exiting a State System of Care by County and Housing Status

Fiscal Year 2021

	All Youth and Young Adults, Ages 12-24 Unduplicated		Counties with Percent of Homeless Exiters Less than 15%
	ALL EXITERS	HOMELESS	
WASHINGTON	7,354	1,097	15%
Adams	13	0	✓
Asotin	39	< 11	✓
Benton	196	29	✓
Chelan	82	13	
Clallam	101	15	✓
Clark	493	55	✓
Columbia	< 11	0	✓
Cowlitz	164	19	✓
Douglas	47	< 11	✓
Ferry	< 11	< 11	
Franklin	73	< 11	✓
Garfield	< 11	< 11	
Grant	109	17	
Grays Harbor	121	16	✓
Island	63	< 11	✓
Jefferson	29	< 11	
King	1,235	190	
Kitsap	213	38	
Kittitas	68	< 11	✓
Klickitat	28	< 11	
Lewis	150	28	
Lincoln	15	< 11	✓
Mason	75	13	
Okanogan	45	< 11	
Pacific	39	< 11	✓
Pend Oreille	23	< 11	✓
Pierce	828	132	
San Juan	13	< 11	
Skagit	153	38	
Skamania	15	< 11	
Snohomish	718	84	✓
Spokane	986	145	✓
Stevens	61	< 11	✓
Thurston	376	52	✓
Wahkiakum	< 11	< 11	
Walla Walla	62	15	
Whatcom	229	34	✓
Whitman	29	< 11	✓
Yakima	424	88	
Unknown	19	0	✓

## TECHNICAL NOTES

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**Data Sources:** Identification of the study population, system involvement, information on inpatient services, homelessness, and incarceration records are based on information from the Integrated Client Databases (ICDB). The ICDB was developed and is maintained by RDA. The ICDB combines measures derived from the following administrative systems, among others: ProviderOne (medical claims, diagnoses, and behavioral health inpatient admissions), FamLink (foster care), Automated Client Tracking (juvenile rehabilitation institutions and community facilities), the Behavioral Health Data System (behavioral health inpatient admissions), the Automated Client Eligibility System (economic services and homelessness), and the Homeless Management Information System (housing services and homelessness).

**Population:** Youth and young adults who exited from any of the following state systems in state fiscal year (SFY) 2021.

1. **Foster Care:** Young adults who exited a foster care placement, were 18 to 21 years of age at the time of exit, and did not return to foster care.
2. **State-Operated Correctional Facility:** Youth ages 12 and older who exited a Juvenile Rehabilitation institution or community placement facility or young adults ages 18 to 24 exiting a Department of Corrections facility.
3. **Inpatient Behavioral Health:** Youth or young adults ages 12 to 24 who received state or federally funded treatment in an inpatient psychiatric facility (i.e., community mental health hospitals, evaluation and treatment facilities, the Children's Long-Term Inpatient Program, the Child Study and Treatment Center, or the state hospitals), inpatient substance use disorder treatment setting, or medical detoxification facility and exited this setting during SFY 2021.

**Multiple System Involvement:** In situations where a youth or young adult exited multiple state systems of care, they were attributed to the last system of care that they were affiliated with during that year.

**NOTE:** A value of "< 11" indicates that the contents of a cell have been suppressed in accordance with the Health Care Authority's suppression rules because the total youth or young adult count in that cell was less than or equal to 10.

**NOTE:** Currently, state data systems do not systematically collect information on all gender identities. Only male and female gender categories are provided in this report.

## MEASUREMENT PERIODS

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The month in which a youth or young adult is released or discharged from a facility or ages out of foster care is the reference month (Month 0). Housing status is reported for Month +1 through Month +3 (i.e., Homeless within 3 months) and for Month +1 through Month +12 (i.e., Homeless within 12 months). Demographic information is reported as of the reference month. Case history lookback windows begin in the month prior to the reference month (Month -1) and go back through Month - 24 (e.g., mental health treatment need), or over a youth's entire history (e.g., maltreatment history).

## MEASURES

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**Homeless Status:** This is determined based on the following: 1) client living arrangement (*Homeless without Housing, Emergency Shelter, Battered Spouse Shelter, Inappropriate Living Situation*) from the Automated Client Eligibility System (ACES); 2) address information in ACES indicating that a youth or young adult was listed as homeless (e.g., a youth's or young adult's address was "homeless"); 3) housing service information recorded in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS); or 4) information from ProvideOne medical claims data. Youth and young adults were identified as homeless if they experienced a homeless spell in the 12 months following exit from a state system of care.

**Foster Care and Child Welfare Involvement:** Foster care placement includes out-of-home placements with kinship, congregate, and foster caregivers and temporary placement events, such as on-the-run and hospital events, but does not include placement in juvenile detention or rehabilitation centers or trial return home periods. Child welfare involvement includes the receipt of any Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) child welfare system services or case management.

**Readmitted:** Youth and young adults are considered readmitted if they return to any institutional setting (residential/inpatient treatment for mental health or substance use; Juvenile Rehabilitation institution/community facility or adult correctional facility; or foster care) at any time during the 12-month follow-up period. Youth and young adults may count as readmitted and homeless if both conditions apply during the follow-up period.

**County:** Assigned as of the last month that a youth or young adult exited any state system of care.